

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /076 W
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R 271630Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1406
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T NICOSIA 1132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILIPFOR GR TU CY
SUBJ: TURKISH COMMENT RE GREEK CYPRIOT TERRORISM

REF: ANKARA 2388

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT TURKISH CLAIM THAT GOC IS USING QUOTE POLITICAL PARTY CLOSE TO MAKARIOS UNQUOTE TO READY A TERRORIST GROUP WHICH WILL HIT TURKS ON ISLAND AND ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY ONE MAN FITS GUVENDIREN'S DESCRIPTION: RADICAL LEFTISH DR. VASOS LYSSARIDES, WHOSE EDEK PARTY ESPUSES STRONG ANTI-USG, PRO-ARAB LINE. OVER PAST MONTHS, LYSSARIDES AND HIS EDEK MINIONS HAVE REGULARLY STUMPED REFUGEE CAMPS PREACHING "RESISTANCE," "STRUGGLE", ETC. THUS FAR, THEIR SUCCESS APPEARS LIMITED. THEY HAVE MILKED POPULAR DISCONTENTS BUT SHIED AWAY FROM OPEN ADVOCACY OF TERRORISM.

3. TURKS MAY HAVE DRAWN CONCERN FROM RECENT GREEK CYPRIOT REFERENCES TO UNSPECIFIED "IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS", RIGHT AND LEFT,
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WHO ARE THINKING OF GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST TURKISH FORCES.

SIGNIFICANTLY, WHOLE SPECTRUM OF GREEK CYPRUS OPENLY CONDEMNS THIS NOTION. COMMUNIST AKEL, STRONGEST PARTY ON ISLAND AND ALSO QUITE ACTIVE AMONG REFUGEE POPULATION, HAS COME OUT FORCEFULLY AGAINST ILLEGAL ARMED BANDS THAT MIGHT SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH TURKS. BOTH RIGHTIST PRESS AND PRO-MAKARIOS PHILELEFTHEROS HAVE QUOTED ATHENIAN ESTIA TO ARGUE THAT THOSE PREACHING TERRORIST/GUERRILLA GOSPEL ARE FOREIGN AGENTS, WORKING AGAINST INTERESTS OF HELLENISM.

4. STENTORIAN RHETORIC ASIDE, WE DOUBT THAT ANY GREEK CYPRIOT GROUP WANTS TERRORISM AGAINST TURKS. MOST GREEK CYPRIOTS REALIZE INSANITY OF SUCH A MOVE. ARCHBISHOP AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE TRIED TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC MORALE BY RHETORIC OF "STRUGGLE" AND "SACRIFICE", HOLDING OUT HOPE OF BETTER DAYS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED GIVING CONTENT TO THESE IDEAS. EOKA-B IS PRESENTLY QUIESCENT, NUMB FROM DISASTER OF LAST SUMMER; IT IS MOST UNLIKELY TO START ANYTHING AGAINST MAKARIOS OR TURKS. MAKARIOS' ADVISOR, ANDREAS AZINAS SEES NO REPEAT NO CHANCE OF ANY GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AGAINST TURKS AT THIS TIME. IN MARCH 27 TALK WITH AMBASSADOR (SEPTEL), CLERIDES TOOK SIMILAR LINE, ARGUING THAT, WHILE LYSSARIDES INDEED MAKING IRRESPONSIBLE NOISES, ALL REPEAT ALL GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS AWARE OF DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF TERRORISM AND THAT NO ONE REPEAT NO ONE PLANNING SUCH STEP.

5. ON BASIS ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, WE CONCLUDE THERE IS PRESENTLY NO REPEAT NO SUCH THREAT ON ISLAND. WE CANNOT COMPLETELY RULE OUT SUCH CONTINGENCY, BUT WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY COME IN LONGER TERM IF AND AS DESPERATION OF REFUGEE POPULATION MOUNTS, CREATING MORE FERTILE CLIMATE FOR SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE NOTIONS. CONCEIVABLY, GREEK TERRORISTS MIGHT AT THAT POINT RESORT TO OFF-ISLAND VIOLENCE, TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR TURKS TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON-ISLAND.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRORISM, POLITICAL SITUATION, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI01132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750108-0540
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750310/aaaaaihl.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 2388
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH COMMENT RE GREEK CYPRIOT TERRORISM
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, GR, TU, CY, (LYSSARIDES, VASOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006